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Dynamic switch cascading system.

A computer interconnection system provides dynamic switch cascading with a plurality of circuit switches having circuit switch ports coupled by a dynamic connection to provide a dynamically cascadable switching network having a plurality of nodes, including end point and switch nodes. Two individual circuit switches of the network are interconnected by a cross-link group of one or more links. The system transmits frame information including a source endpoint address and a destination endpoint address, each of which can be associated with an endpoint port or a cross-link port, and forms a connection between an endpoint port or a cross-link group to make a connection between a circuit switch port corresponding to a source endpoint address and a circuit switch port corresponding to the destination endpoint. The dynamic circuit switch connections, as applicable to dynamic switch cascade operation, is compatible with the ESCON I/O Interface Architecture or to a fabric node supporting the Class 1 service defined by the Fibre Channel ANSI Standard.

FIG. 1

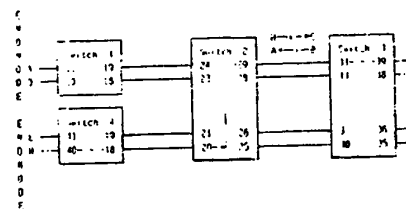


FIGURE 1. Example of dynamic switch cascading as a cross-link between Switch 1, Port 19 and Switch 3, Port 18.

EP 0 649 098 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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EP 94 11 4712

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim
Y, D	US-A-5 107 489 (BROWN PAUL J ET AL) 21 April 1992 * column 13, line 29 - line 35; claims; figures 5, 9A, 9B *	1-13
Y	EP-A-0 505 782 (IBM) 30 September 1992 * column 6, line 12 - column 7, line 20; claims; figures 3B-4B *	1-13
A	EP-A-0 505 695 (IBM) 30 September 1992 * column 10, line 22 - column 11, line 36; claims 1, 23; figure 7 *	1-13

CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
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TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
G06F

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	22 August 1995	Soler, J

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document

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T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application I : document cited for other reasons A : number of the same patent family, corresponding document